

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 243

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 5, 2003

Referred to the Committee on International Relations

AN ACT

Concerning participation of Taiwan in the World Health
Organization.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. CONCERNING THE PARTICIPATION OF TAIWAN**
2 **IN THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION**
3 **(WHO).**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress makes the following
5 findings:

6 (1) Good health is important to every citizen of
7 the world and access to the highest standards of
8 health information and services is necessary to im-
9 prove the public health.

10 (2) Direct and unobstructed participation in
11 international health cooperation forums and pro-
12 grams is beneficial for all parts of the world, espe-
13 cially with today's greater potential for the cross-
14 border spread of various infectious diseases such as
15 the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), tuber-
16 culosis, and malaria.

17 (3) Taiwan's population of 23,500,000 people is
18 greater than that of three-fourths of the member
19 states already in the World Health Organization
20 (WHO).

21 (4) Taiwan's achievements in the field of health
22 are substantial, including one of the highest life ex-
23 pectancy levels in Asia, maternal and infant mor-
24 tality rates comparable to those of western countries,
25 the eradication of such infectious diseases as chol-
26 era, smallpox, and the plague, and the first to eradi-

1 cate polio and provide children with hepatitis B vac-
2 cinations.

3 (5) The United States Centers for Disease Con-
4 trol and Prevention and its Taiwan counterpart
5 agencies have enjoyed close collaboration on a wide
6 range of public health issues.

7 (6) In recent years Taiwan has expressed a will-
8 ingness to assist financially and technically in inter-
9 national aid and health activities supported by the
10 WHO.

11 (7) On January 14, 2001, an earthquake, reg-
12 istering between 7.6 and 7.9 on the Richter scale,
13 struck El Salvador. In response, the Taiwanese gov-
14 ernment sent 2 rescue teams, consisting of 90 indi-
15 viduals specializing in firefighting, medicine, and
16 civil engineering. The Taiwanese Ministry of Foreign
17 Affairs also donated \$200,000 in relief aid to the
18 Salvadoran Government.

19 (8) The World Health Assembly has allowed ob-
20 servers to participate in the activities of the organi-
21 zation, including the Palestine Liberation Organiza-
22 tion in 1974, the Order of Malta, and the Holy See
23 in the early 1950s.

24 (9) The United States, in the 1994 Taiwan Pol-
25 icy Review, declared its intention to support Tai-

1 wan's participation in appropriate international or-
2 ganizations.

3 (10) Public Law 106–137 required the Sec-
4 retary of State to submit a report to the Congress
5 on efforts by the executive branch to support Tai-
6 wan's participation in international organizations, in
7 particular the WHO.

8 (11) In light of all benefits that Taiwan's par-
9 ticipation in the WHO can bring to the state of
10 health not only in Taiwan, but also regionally and
11 globally, Taiwan and its 23,500,000 people should
12 have appropriate and meaningful participation in the
13 WHO.

14 (12) On May 11, 2001, President Bush stated
15 in his letter to Senator Murkowski that the United
16 States “should find opportunities for Taiwan's voice
17 to be heard in international organizations in order to
18 make a contribution, even if membership is not pos-
19 sible”, further stating that his Administration “has
20 focused on finding concrete ways for Taiwan to ben-
21 efit and contribute to the WHO”.

22 (13) In his speech made in the World Medical
23 Association on May 14, 2002, Secretary of Health
24 and Human Services Tommy Thompson announced
25 “America's work for a healthy world cuts across po-

1 litical lines. That is why my government supports
2 Taiwan's efforts to gain observership status at the
3 World Health Assembly. We know this is a con-
4 troversial issue, but we do not shrink from taking a
5 public stance on it. The people of Taiwan deserve
6 the same level of public health as citizens of every
7 nation on earth, and we support them in their ef-
8 forts to achieve it".

9 (14) The Government of the Republic of China
10 on Taiwan, in response to an appeal from the
11 United Nations and the United States for resources
12 to control the spread of HIV/AIDS, donated
13 \$1,000,000 to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tu-
14 berculosis and Malaria in December 2002.

15 (b) PLAN.—The Secretary of State is authorized—

16 (1) to initiate a United States plan to endorse
17 and obtain observer status for Taiwan at the annual
18 week-long summit of the World Health Assembly in
19 May 2003 in Geneva, Switzerland; and

20 (2) to instruct the United States delegation to
21 Geneva to implement that plan.

22 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 14 days after the date
23 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall

- 1 submit a report to Congress in unclassified form describ-
- 2 ing the action taken under subsection (b).

Passed the Senate May 1, 2003.

Attest: EMILY J. REYNOLDS,
Secretary.